

MINUTES OF MEETING OF PETTAUGH PARISH COUNCIL HELD

19th JANUARY 2015 IN ST CATHERINE'S CHURCH AT 6.30 p.m.

Those present: Councillor Belinda Bulsing (Chairman), Councillor Andy Corrigan, Councillor Gordon Janson and Councillor Stephen Rowe. Mrs Margaret Marlow was Acting Clerk. Four parishioners were also present.

- 1. Welcome by the Chairman.** The Chairman welcomed those Parishioners present at the meeting, and thanked them for their support in attending.
- 2. Apologies for Absence.** Apologies had been accepted from Councillor Michael Hook, due to work commitments.
- 3. To receive Declarations of Interest.** Cllr Bulsing, Cllr Janson and Cllr Rowe declared an interest in items 7/8 and 11 and had made application for dispensation under the Suffolk Code of Conduct, in order for the Parish Council to be in a position to discuss these items.
- 4. To approve the Minutes of Parish Council Meeting – 3rd November 2014.** Councillors voted to approve the minutes. This was proposed by Cllr Corrigan, seconded by Cllr Janson. The minutes were accepted and signed as a true record.
- 5. Matters arising from the Minutes.** There were no matters arising from the minutes.

The Chairman suspended the meeting to take the public forum.

PUBLIC FORUM. A parishioner again raised the issue of the Broadband speed, and requested that the Parish Council continue to explore all possibilities for increasing the village broadband speed. A parishioner raised the question of heavy vehicles using the Debenham Road and how she had very nearly had an accident involving her child due to a speeding Debenham coach. She commented that one speed sign was not sufficient. Councillors explained the restrictions placed upon the number of VAS signs due to Health and Safety. The parishioner was advised to put the incident in writing and send it to the Parish Clerk.

The Chairman reopened the meeting.

- 6. Consideration of Planning Application 3838/14.** Councillors were informed that the Planning Department had already requested a minor amendment to the plans as shown. Councillors had studied the plans, had no comments to add, and were in agreement for the plans to be approved.
- 7. To discuss and set the Parish Precept for 2015/16.** Councillors considered the financial needs of the parish for the coming year. The Parish Council will finish the financial year within budget and still has reserves. Councillors unanimously agreed that the Council had sufficient funds to enable the precept to remain at the same figure as the current year. The precept figure was again set at £1,750.00. Councillors then signed the form in compliance with regulatory requirements.
- 8. To consider the proposed budget for the financial year 2015/16.** When considering expenditure to date for this financial year against the proposed budget for 2015/16, it was noted that no charitable donations had so far been made for 2014. It was again considered that any donation would be to a local charity and a decision would be made at the next meeting. The proposed figures were an increase on 2014/15 to cover increased costs and upcoming election expenses. The proposed budget figure of £2,400 was accepted by Councillors.

9. To discuss and propose for adoption new Standing Orders for Pettaugh Parish Council based on the updated 2014 NALC Model Standing orders. Following on from the detailed review by councillors of the new NALC Standing Orders and the Parish Council Policies and Procedures at the last meeting the documents have been reformatted and copies given to Councillors. Councillors agreed to a resolution to adopt these Standing Orders. Resolution: To lay aside the present Council Standing Orders, and to adopt the new NALC Model Standing Orders dated June 2014 and new Parish Council Policies and Procedures as reviewed and amended by Council at Parish Council meeting of 3rd November 2014. This was proposed by Cllr Corrigan, seconded by Cllr Bulsing and agreed.

10. To discuss the current position on the provision of VAS signs for Pettaugh and to approve as necessary any actions to be taken. Cllr Bulsing had contacted 'Messagemaker' for clarification on the quotation received from it for the proposed sign. Cllr Bulsing was advised that the sign councillors had agreed on and was quoted for may be too heavy if it is required to be regularly moved. It was suggested that a smaller sign may be more appropriate and would take less power. The power source required would be solar plus batteries. A smaller sign would cost in the region of £2,400.00. It was suggested that the Parish Council contact Mr White at SCC again to ascertain if the County Council had any other approved suppliers. The Acting Clerk will contact Mr White.

11. To consider a request from the Parochial Church Council for financial support for maintenance of the Churchyard made under LGA 1972 Section 214(6). The Parish Council had received a letter from St Catherine's PCC treasurer giving details and copy invoices of the paid work undertaken in the maintenance of the Churchyard over the past twelve months. This included urgent work undertaken by Waveney Trees on the large chestnut by the footpath in the churchyard when a November storm had brought down three branches. SCC Footpaths had informed the PCC that if the footpath needed to be closed this would incur a cost which would be charged to the PCC. Routine maintenance of this and other trees may be required in the coming year. It was acknowledged that the PCC has very limited means. Councillors had already paid for the purchase of a second-hand mower in 2014 at a cost of £500 which was in excess of budget by £150. It was felt that the Parish Council had made a considerable proportional donation from parish funds for this financial year. Given this, the Councillors did not feel able to make a further contribution at this stage, but Cllr Rowe asked it to be recorded that he wished £200 to be allocated to next year's budget for the maintenance of the churchyard. The Councillors expressed sympathy for the excessive liabilities faced by the PCC and stated they would be happy to reconsider applications in the future once quotations had been obtained.

12. To receive a report by the Acting Clerk and to authorize cheque payments. The Acting Clerk had nothing further to report that had not been covered in the budget and precept discussions. After authorization of the presented cheques the Parish Council current account balance will be £5,598.57 of which £2,288.54 is allocated funds for village safety. The Business Saver Account stands at £1,047.75. Councillors authorized the payment of cheque no 100341 for £15.00 to St Catherine's Parochial Church Council for use of the church, and cheque no 100342 for £69.79 to Mrs M Marlow for Administrative costs (stationery and ink cartridges).

13. To record correspondence received. A list of correspondence received for the period 4th November 2014 – 19th January 2015 was accepted for the record.

Letter 4th November to Treasurer St Catherine PCC with cheque for church use 3/11/2014.

Acknowledgement received.

Letter with cheque 4th November to SALC re subscription for 2014/15.

e-mail from Messagemaker with quotation for VAS sign.

e-mail from MSDC Financial Services with precept forms and information.

Report from Councillor Janson on Parish Liaison Meeting 4th November 2014.

Information from SALC re Annual General Meeting.

Letter 16th December 2014 from MSDC Planning Services re Planning Application no 3838/14.

Letter received 7th January 2015 from St Catherine PCC with request for financial support for Churchyard maintenance.

Letter 15th January 2015 to parishioner re planning application 3838/14, invitation to attend meeting.

e-mails from SALC with updated information and protocols on Openness Legislation.

e-mail from SALC re invitations to Buckingham Palace Garden Party

e-mail from Suffolk Community Foundation re Nominations for High Sheriff's Awards 2015

e-mail 16th January from MSDC Place Directorate re Revised Draft on Community Infrastructure..

Additional e-mails include weekly planning lists, and Rural Services Network bulletins.

December 2014 and January 2015 reports for Thredling Division from Councillor Hicks.

14. Any other business. Cllr Rowe drew Councillor's attention to the e-mail that had been circulated to councillors about the proposed expansion of the Aspoll Cyder facilities. It was suggested that the Parish Council invites somebody from Aspoll Cyder to come and talk to the Council. A possible implication for Pettaugh would be the increased volume of HGVs through the village.

The Acting Clerk drew Councillor's attention to the nomination for ballot to attend a Buckingham Palace Garden Party. Councillors supported a nomination for Cllr Bulsing. Attention was also drawn to the Suffolk Community Foundation High Sheriff's Awards. It was agreed by all at the meeting that Jan Scott be nominated for an award.

15. Date of next meeting. The next meeting will be on 24th February 2015 at 6.30 p.m. in the Church.

The meeting closed at 8.40 p.m.